Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation.

President.—The next is the Cochin Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K.P.Kannan Nayar.—I beg to lay the report of the Select Committee which is submitted on the Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation and also venture to say that the Bill as amended by them will commend itself to this House. Of course, so far as this amendment Bill is concerned, it may perhaps be necessary to discuss each clause by itself, and so the stating of reasons for the insertion of those clauses may be better postponed to that time, and I don't take up the time of the House now by saying anything upon that. Anyhow, the clauses have to be considered separately, and when an opportunity comes, I shall discuss the principles. I move that the Bill be taken up for consideration.

President.—Who seconds?

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—I second it.

President.—The question before the House is whether the Cochin Nayar Regulation Amendment Bill may be taken up for consideration.

Question put and agreed to.

President.—Clause 1. "This Regulation may be called 'A Regulation to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation XIII of 1095'.
It shall come into force... ... ..."

Clause put and agreed to.

President.—Clause 2. 'Section 1, substitute the word 'Nayars' for the words 'Nayar females."

Clause put and agreed to.

President.—3. "Section 2, in the definition of 'Thavazhi of a female' add at the end 'or such of that group as are alive'."

Clause put and agreed to.

President.—Then, "Forsection 3 the following shall be substituted: "Subject to the restrictions of consanguinity and affinity recognised by the community, the conjugal union of a Nayar female with

(a) a Nayar male, or

(b) any male, other than a Nayar, with whom conjugal union is permitted according to the social custom and usage,

openly solemnised by the presentation of cloth to the female by the male, or in any other customary form before the date on which this Regulation comes into force and subsisting on such date, or so solemnised by the presentation of cloth after this Regulation comes into force, shall be deemed to be a valid marriage.

Provided that in the case of conjugal unions commenced before Regulation XIII of 1095 and subsisting on such date, or so solemnised by the presentation of cloth after this Regulation comes into force, shall be deemed to be a valid marriage."

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I would suggest that instead of the words 'customary form' 'approved form' may be used.

President.—Approved by whom ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—By the community. The approbation does not require explanation. There may be new forms of marriage, and still approved forms.

President.—I mean, for instance, the cloth presentation. Change of rings is another form. Suppose there is no presentation of cloth but only change of rings. It is an approved form. The question will arise who has approved it.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The community. How is the customary form decided ? Only an evidence.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and met again at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I suggest that instead of the words "customary form" the words "approved form" may be substituted.

Deputy President.—Do you agree with his proposal ? He suggests that instead of the words " customary form" the words "approved form" may be substituted.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I have no objection.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—"Openly solemnised by the presentation of cloth". All marriages after the Regulation comes into force should be by presentation of cloth. No other form is permissible.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—After this Regulation. Because that is the form prescribed by the Regulation.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Only by the presentation of cloth.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Is it an amendment, Sir ?

Deputy President.—Only verbal. It is not substantial.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—That matter also may be considered. After the date of this Regulation only by the presentation of cloth should there be valid marriages. There also 'any other approved form' may be added. I suggest that the matter may be taken, with advantage, at the next meeting so that all the Members interested may read the provisions more carefully and submit amendments. Time is rather sharp.

Deputy President.—Is that essential ?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I leave it to the House.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Because it affects the whole community and the sense of the community has not been taken.

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Deputy President.—The suggestion is put to this off to another meeting.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I move that it may be adjourned.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Was it not moved in an earlier stage to-day?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Regularly moved.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The consideration of this matter may be put off to the next meeting.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—I want to know whether a similar motion was made at an earlier stage.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—No motion, only suggestion.

Deputy President.—He seems to think that a large number of alterations are necessary.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Instead of precipitating the passing of this Bill we shall consider it more carefully.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—We have gone through part of the Bill.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—What of that?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Only the remainder of that has to be considered.

Deputy President.—I shall put it to the votes. He wants the further consideration of the Bill to be adjourned to another meeting.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I second it.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Next meeting.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Not to-morrow or the day after.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—This session, next meeting.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Not to-morrow.

Deputy President.—I shall put it to the votes.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—No opposition.

Motion put and agreed to.

Hence the consideration of the remainning clauses of the Bill stood adjourned.

The following amendments also stood adjourned.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—(1) Insert a preamble at the beginning as follows:—

"Preamble. Whereas it is expedient to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation XIII of 1095 in some respects, it is hereby enacted as follows:—"

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—(2) Insert after the preamble a section as section 1 thus:—

"Title and commencement. This Regulation may be called 'A Regulation to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation, XIII of 1095, and it shall came into force at once."

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